

Disaster Training Information

Elizabeth Hyland, President NCCA
ehyland@ctc.net

At the June NCCA board meeting, we agreed to put disaster training information on our web site. I have contacted the NC State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) and the American Red Cross. The following information and contacts will assist you in obtaining disaster training.

If you are interested in disaster training, please start the process now! By the time a disaster hits us or our neighbors, it's too late to start training!

THE STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

A SMAT II is a hospital based team of medical professionals established to provide patient mass medical care, alternate care facilities, decontamination and mass drug distribution points during a disaster. SMAT II includes physicians, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, surgeons, social workers, chaplains, counselors, and other support staff. The team can be deployed regionally in less than an hour and within 12-24 hours statewide. It can also be deployed to another state by request as it was during Katrina when the Carolinas Medical Center sent the Med 1 Hospital to Waveland, MS.

NC SMATs are interested in establishing a partnership with NCCA and having more SMAT trained chaplains available for deployment.

North Carolina currently has eight SMAT II teams, which are based at sponsor hospitals. Each county and hospital in North Carolina is included in a SMAT II region or assigned to a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). To find your local contact person, see the SMAT commanders listed below or see the state map on the website.

The web site for NC State Medical Assistance Team is www.cms.premis.net/smat. If it doesn't open, Google: NC State Medical Assistance Team.

TRAINING REQUIRMENTS:

1. There are 5 required SMAT II education modules that you can find on line. Study the materials; print & complete the test and mail it to your local SMAT Commander (see list). The modules can be found at http://www.sortteam.org/SMAT2_web-based_training.html. The modules include: Hazmat Awareness, Medical Surge Resources, Alternate Care Facilities, Incident Command System and Strategic National Stockpile & Mass Immunization.
2. You must complete the following FEMA modules in this order – IS-700, IS-100, & IS-200. These are on line at <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. Take the test & submit it online to FEMA. When your certificate comes back, make a copy & mail to your local SMAT Commander.
3. After you complete the online modules you need to complete a SMAT II Basic Training Course (2- day classroom/hands-on training). When you contact your local SMAT Commander ask to be notified when this course will be taught in your area or around the state.
4. You must complete all the SMAT & FEMA modules & Basic Training to be deployed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE MODULES:

I have completed all of the SMAT/FEMA modules and am waiting to find a time/location for the 2 day hands-on SMAT II training. The topics are not familiar to most chaplains and completing the modules is time consuming. Remember: you are expected to become an informed team member and not a hazardous materials specialist!

Print the tests before starting the study modules and mark the answers as you go. It makes the process easier. You'll probably have to go back and search for a few answers.

There are several formats for studying the FEMA modules. Look at them and find one that works best for you. I got an email response within a couple of days that I passed the FEMA modules. I sent the email confirmation to my SMAT II commander.

CONTACT INFORMATION for the North Carolina SMAT Commanders:

Mountain Area SMAT (Asheville) - Debbie Gilbert (828) 213-1977; debbie.gilbert@msj.org;

Triad Area SMAT (Winston-Salem) - Jimmy Taylor (336) 413-5161; jdtaylor@wfubmc.edu

Duke SMAT (Durham) - Larry Tucker (919) 684-4841; larry.tucker@duke.edu;

Mid-Carolina SMAT (Chapel Hill) - Randy Hoffman (919) 843-1471; prhoffman@gmail.com

Capitol SMAT (Raleigh) - Sean Gibson (919) 350-6436; sgibson@wakemed.org

Eastern SMAT (Greenville) - Kiplan Clemmons (252) 847-7483; KClemmon@PCMH.COM

Southeastern SMAT (Wilmington) - Mark Bennett (910) 343-4877; Mark.Bennett@nhhn.org

Metrolina Trauma Advisory Committee (Charlotte) - James Payne, 704-355-9345;
james.payne@carolinashealthcare.org

AMERICAN RED CROSS www.redcross.org

The Red Cross Disaster Training information does not seem to be consolidated in one location. The best plan is to contact your local Red Cross to confirm their requirements for disaster training and deployment. It will likely take at least one month to complete their requirements depending on when they teach required courses.

Your local volunteer coordinator will provide a basic orientation and give you forms that need to be completed. These include but may not be limited to the DSHR application, health forms, statement of understanding, pre-deployment health review, and back ground check.

The Introduction to Disasters is required and available on line. You will need to complete CPR and a First Aid course through your local ARC. They can provide other courses specific to areas of interest

such as mental health worker, client case worker, logistic, sheltering, feeding, government liaison, etc.

Once you complete their required training, you will be entered in the ARC data base of volunteers and can be deployed locally or nationally. The Red Cross needs volunteers all year long. If a person is well trained and a national disaster occurs, then one is more likely be deployed.

Earl Johnson is a chaplain who directs the Spiritual Care Response Team for the ARC at the national level and is the contact for national chaplains' organizations. He spoke at the APC conference in May '06. You can reach him at JohnsonEa@usa.redcross.org

You can contact Preston Smith, a NCCA member, who volunteers with and knows a lot about the American Red Cross system. psmith105@cox.net

CHAPLAIN DISASTER TOOLKIT

At the spring APC conference I attended a lunch group that focused on disaster preparedness. One suggestion is for chaplains to keep a "disaster tool kit". It is a plastic container that holds supplies you might need to maintain an area where families gather awaiting news during a major trauma or disaster. This list is by no means complete, but is offered as a starting place.

- Name tags
- Writing pens and large felt tip markers
- Paper supplies such as sticky notes, legal pads, clip boards, tape, etc.
- Sign in sheet to keep track of who's in the waiting area
- Forms for people to complete giving the name and description of the person they are looking for. Includes identifying marks; name of person's physician & dentist; known allergies; contact information for next of kin. Your hospital emergency preparedness team may created these.
- Kleenex
- Phone numbers for clergy who are trained to respond to disasters; other chaplains in the area; interpreters; organizations that may be of assistance such as American Red Cross; contacts in other hospitals from whom you may be able to get information
- A list of clergy who would be allowed in the hospital to assist with a crisis
- A flip chart which allows you to add information as it becomes available. You can use this to keep track of the incident and inform people of what has happened
- Bibles, Torah, Koran, rosary beads, etc.; translations in appropriate languages
- A prayer basket with paper and pens to write prayer requests
- Crayons and coloring books for kids
- Job description for any volunteers who might come to assist you such as local clergy

Things to consider:

- Additional phones; having additional phone jacks in the room where people will gather
- Television (s)
- Always keep an overnight bag with you that includes personal items, toiletries and scrubs!
- A plan to set up the room so others can assist you
- Setting up a table for religious/spiritual items such as Bibles
- Snacks, beverages, food that can be obtained from food services
- A private place for individual family conferences

- A phone script for anyone who might help make phone calls such as to ask clergy to come in to help; include what happened, identify your needs, where to report, credentials to bring, etc.

OTHER WEB SITES

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster www.nvoad.com

Includes "Emotional and Spiritual Care; An Introduction on Basic Concepts", which could be used in training local clergy about disaster care

Disaster News is a resource about disaster response groups, disaster needs, etc.;
www.disasternews.net

NC Interfaith Disaster Response focuses mainly on disaster response from faith groups rather than chaplains, but has some good information; www.ncidr.org